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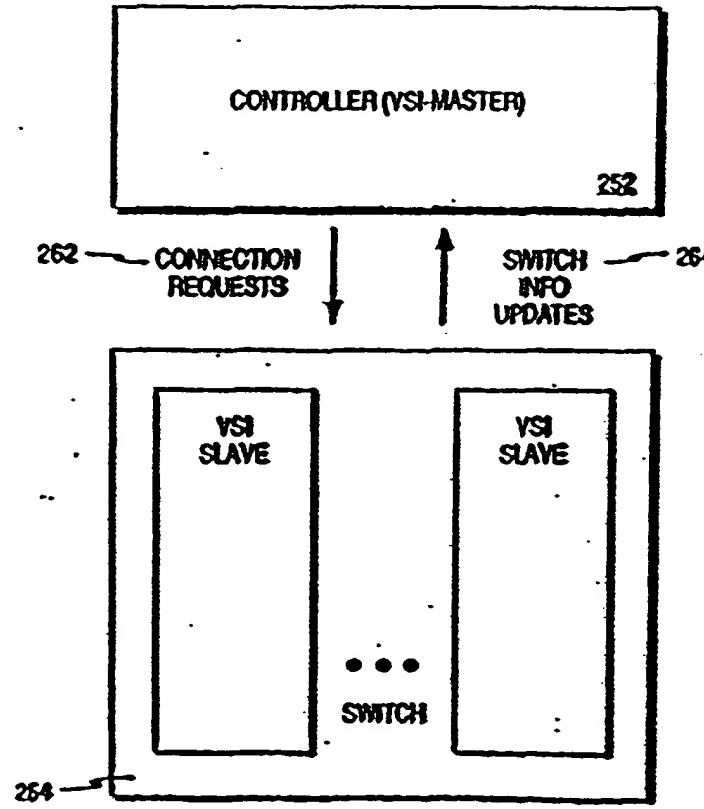
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Title: A CONNECTION CONTROL INTERFACE FOR MULTISERVICE SWITCHES

Abstract

A connection control interface for switches in a network is provided. The connection control interface allows the multiservice switch to provide a number of resource partitions to a number of independent controllers coupled to the switch. The switch resource partitions comprise a set of subsets of switch resources that is a number of independent subset networks of a physical network. The connection control interface allows the independent controllers to control the connections to a switch using the number of switch resource partitions. The independent controllers each use one of a number of control systems, the control systems comprising a network software level. The independent controllers comprise a virtual switch interface having a master component and slave components where the master and slave components may be hosted on different processors. The slave components may be hosted on a control card that contains a number of port cards of the switch or a port card processor. The switch resource independent controllers are synchronized when discrepancies are detected in the connections on the switch and expected by the each of the plurality of independent controllers.



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